

is very clearly indicated and the proper emphasis of his treatment of the several parts of the subject is carefully preserved.

As to the general character of the Apostles' religious teaching they have no radical novelties to propose and no fads to support. If they have no bias in favor of any of the prevailing theological systems neither have they any bias against them. The conclusions which they reach as the outcome of their straightforward dealing with the epistle are not substantially different from those held by the Reformed Churches during the past three hundred years. While there is a full recognition of the force of some of the Armenian contentions in treating chapters ix-xi, there is an equally clear recognition of the main conclusions of Calvinism as necessarily involved in Paul's language. And what is even more important there is a firm and unequivocal presentation of the evangelical doctrine of justification by faith on the ground of a real objective atonement made by Christ. There is hardly anything finer in the literature of the subject than the brief exordium on the Death of Christ considered as a sacrifice given on pp. 91-94. Altogether this work must be pronounced the most satisfactory commentary on Romans which has ever appeared.

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR HOUR, by S. J. F. Hill, A.M., Fleming H. Revell Co. Toronto. Price 15 cts.

This little book should receive a warm welcome at the hands of all Endeavorers. It is an exposition of the United Society topics for the half year ending with June 1896, and is rich with helpful suggestions for those who take part in the Endeavor prayer meetings. The text of the topic is first given, followed by suggested hymns and Scripture references then comes a brief comment on the passage and a pointed illustration and application of the truth ending with pithy hints to the leader and others who take part. We understand a second book will be issued for the latter half of the year.

THE LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS, by Mrs. Louise Seymour Houghton. 213 pp., cloth, 75 cents. The Bible Study Publishing Co., 21 Bromfield Street, Boston, Mass.

This book comprises a series of comments on the Gospel History Lessons of The Bible Study Union System, which was prepared for *The New York Evangelist*, and were afterwards carefully revised and to a large extent rewritten for permanent use. Each chapter takes up the Scripture material of one section or characteristic feature of our Lord's life and throws much light on its meaning, as well as upon its circumstances and surroundings. The book is full of valuable information and interesting suggestions. As stated in the author's preface, these studies were prepared "in the hope that they may prove useful to all who wish to attain a comprehensive and connected view of the life of our Lord, and especially to teachers of Bible class pupils who follow the lessons of the Gospel History Series.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST, by the Rev. Lyman Abbott, D.D. 176 pp., cloth, 75 cents. The Bible Study Publishing Co., 21 Bromfield Street, Boston, Mass.

This work presents a series of pen pictures comprising all the principal incidents in the life of Christ, in the order of their occurrence. It both marks the steps of progress in that life, giving an outline view of it in all its important aspects, and also clearly presents the essential teachings of the various incidents portrayed. Dr. Abbot's eminent fitness for the preparation of such a work none can question. He has already written one Life of Christ, which has commanded an extensive sale, and has prepared excellent popular commentaries on each of the Gospels. The purpose of this book, as stated in the author's preface, "is to present in a single picture, the incident or teaching suggested for our contemplation, and to suggest, not all the lessons that may be drawn from it, but that lesson which is most central and is at once most upon the surface and most at the heart of the narrative.

The Expository Times for January well maintains its character as a bright and spicy periodical keeping its readers in touch with all that is best and most interesting in theological literature whether expository or otherwise. One of its most appreciative notices is given to a Canadian book. MacKay's *From Far Formosa*. There is no more readable theological magazine published on either side of the Atlantic. Edinburgh, T. and T. Clark. Toronto, Willard Tract Depository.

Bright Homes.

The beautiful picture which the great Burns draws in his "Cotter's Saturday Night" is perhaps the finest description of the simplicity of home-life we have in our language. There is a sense of sadness in reading it however. The sadness rests in this—that there are few homes like the ideal

Their masters an' th'ir mistress's command,
The youngers a' are warn'd to obey;
An' mind their labours wi' an' eydent hand,
An' no'er, tho' out o' sight, to jank or play
An' oh! be sure to fear the Lord alway,
An' mind your duty duly, morn' an' night.

Such is not the instruction which is generally given in our democratic homes to-day. In how few homes to-day, does the father, like the Cotter, exercise his priesthood and offer up his sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving upon the altar in his home? Indifference, carelessness, laxity of life characterise the lives of the majority of people to-day. We discuss how to reach these after they have left the home, and indeed it is a difficult problem. But do we not begin at the wrong end? Should not the Church strive to preach how to make homes more religious and bright?

We are constantly told by the enemies of religion, that religion should be taught at home. From our enemies we are to learn wholesome truths. What is the religion of many homes? Prayer is not offered up daily. The only mention of religion is the talk about church meetings, discussing some church squabble, criticizing the sermon, gossiping about the minister and other church members, or arguing over church politics. These things instead of helping the spiritual lives of the people, are most deadening in their effect. Worldly maxims, worldly aims are discussed and advocated from the world's standpoint, and not from that of our Blessed Lord. Is it any wonder that from such homes young people come forth indifferent to the claim of Christ upon them?

Indeed our modern life, makes it most difficult to have the home what it ought to be. For the attractions outside the home make it impossible for the family often to be at home together. The father has his lodges and various societies to attend. The young people have all sorts of clubs and societies of their own. If they have nothing else to do, they will walk up and down the streets in groups, even on a cold night, anything rather than staying at home. Many a ruin has resulted from these night walks. Even "the churches" are vying with each other in counter attractions to draw young people to them. The result is that home is a place to eat and sleep in, to spend a night in when there is a party there, but otherwise "slow"! To always "talk religion" at children would be more than fatal. But homes are not made bright. The influence of Puritanism still hangs over us. "Games are wrong and must not be allowed." Far better for parents to get their family round the table for a good round game, and teach them that gambling is a heinous crime, but relaxation after the day's work is over is lawful and right. Let them have these games, of whatever sort, in the home and they will not be so anxious to go out seeking for that which their own homes do not afford. If they are out at a friend's house for the night, the parents should know where they are, and can ask friends in also, and so make the social life of the house bright and happy. Then before going to bed, bring out the Bible, let the father read a few verses, explain them simply, then lowly kneeling commit them all to God. Young people would see that religion was real and bright far quicker than by banishing so called "worldly amusements" out of the home and making them imagine that religion and amusement were bitter antagonists. An amusement is worldly or not, just as the individual is worldly or not. One who has Christ's life in him, and loves God and man, will sanctify anything and everything he touches. There are, of course, many games, such as kissing games of all sorts, which are vulgar and tend to evil, which I do not advocate. But do not make things evil which are not evil in themselves. No round game in which there is no gambling, where the propensities are observed, and the mind is used, is wrong, unless time is spent upon it, which should be given to other duties. Let parents remember that their duty is to teach their children, and to save them from temptation, and the best way to do this is to make home the brightest and happiest spot on earth, because it is a home in which the Father is worshipped.